

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 680

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0953

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH DEMARCHE TO PORTUGAL

REF: COPENHAGEN 0930

1. ACTING POLITICAL DIRECTOR OLE BIERRING TOLD DCM APRIL 4 THAT, AS EXPECTED, DANISH AMBASSADOR HAD MADE DEMARCHE APRIL 3 TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES (COPENHAGEN 0930). AMBASSADOR TSCHERNING HAD BEGUN BY NOTING THAT DENMARK HAD BEEN AN OPEN AND CONSISTENT CRITIC OF THE PREVIOUS
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REGIMES AND HAD THEREFORE WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT WHICH

TOOK OVER LAST APRIL. IT STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR DECOLONIZATION AND FOR INTERNAL DEMOCRATIZATION. THE POLITICAL WILL WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD SHOWN HAD WON ADMIRATION AND RESPECT IN DENMARK, WHERE IT WAS THE HOPE THAT THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS WOULD MAKE PORTUGAL A TRUE PARTNER OF THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE TREND TOWARD A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY WOULD BE STRENGTHENED AS A RESULT OF THE ELECTION TO BE HELD APRIL 25.

2. ACCORDING TO BIERRING, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES HAD RESPONDED TO THIS "MILD" DEMARCH BY STATING THAT HE KNEW THAT THE PORTUGUESE IMAGE IN THE WESTERN WORLD WAS UNFAVORABLE AT PRESENT. GIVEN RECENT PORTUGUESE HISTORY, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WAS REALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT PORTUGAL COULD FOLLOW A POLICY BASED ON THE CENTER OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. NEVERTHELESS, THOSE MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY TODAY FIRMLY INTENDED TO INTRODUCE A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY. PORTUGAL WILL STAY IN NATO. IT WILL ALSO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN TIES WITH THE AFRICAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES AND THIS WILL BE FAVORABLE TO EUROPE.

3. BIERRING SAID THAT ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR TSCHERNING HAD MADE A REPRESENTATION AS INSTRUCTED, HE HAD INFORMED COPENHAGEN THAT HE DOUBTED THE EFFECT OF DEMARCHES MADE SEPARATELY BY A NUMBER OF NATO COUNTRIES. IT WAS WIDELY BELIEVED IN PORTUGAL, HE REPORTED, THAT THE DEMARCHES HAD BEEN COORDINATED IN THE NATO FRAMEWORK. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN LISBON, WHO ALSO HAD INSTRUCTION TO MAKE A DEMARCHE, HAD TALKED HIS GOVERNMENT OUT OF IT.

4. DESPITE AMBASSADOR TSCHERNING'S VIEWS, BIERRING INDICATED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY GENERALLY CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS USEFUL TO LET THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT KNOW HOW ITS FRIENDS FELT. HE READILY ADMITTED THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND LABOR UNIONS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE AS MUCH EFFECT ON THEIR PORTUGUESE COUNTERPARTS AS ANYONE, AND SAID IN THAT CONNECTION THAT KJELD OLESEN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WILL BE VISITING

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PORTUGAL NEXT WEEK. ALTHOUGH A FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER, OLESEN WILL GO STRICTLY IN A PARTY CAPACITY, AND WILL HOPE TO SEE SOARES WHILE HE IS THERE.

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